

# ELECTIONS

Arizona  
**BLUE BOOK**  
Millennium Edition

*Arizona Scenes*



*Autumn in the High Country*

*Century Plant*



*Sabino Canyon*



*Painted Desert*



*Picacho Peak*

# VOTER REGISTRATION

## Qualifications

Every resident of the state is qualified to register to vote if the resident:

1. Is a citizen of the United States.
2. Will be 18 years of age or more on or before the date of the next regular General Election.
3. Will have been a resident of the state 29 days next preceding the election except as provided in A.R.S. § 16-126.
4. Is able to write the person's name or mark, unless prevented from so doing by physical disability.
5. Has not been convicted of treason or a felony, unless restored to civil rights.
6. Has not been adjudicated an incapacitated person as defined in A.R.S. § 14-5101.

## Registration

### 1. How to Register to Vote

Arizona residents may register to vote in person at their county recorder's office or by mail. Forms are available at government offices and public locations throughout the state or may be requested from County Recorders' offices or the Secretary of State's Office. Voters may obtain a voter registration form from the Secretary of State's Office by calling the Voter Registration Hotline 1-877-THE VOTE (1-877-843-8683) or by downloading it from the Web site: [www.sosaz.com](http://www.sosaz.com).

If a person is unable to complete a registration form, another person may assist in completing the form. The person assisting must also sign the registration form on the line provided at the bottom of the form.

A voter registration form which is returned to the recorder by mail will entitle a voter to vote in an election if it complies with either of the following:

1. The form is postmarked 29 days or more before an election *and* is received by the County Recorder by 7:00 p.m. on the day of that election; *or*
2. The form is dated 29 days or more before an election and is received by the County Recorder within five days after the last day to register to vote in that election.

Any qualified person temporarily absent from the state may register by filling out a mail-in registration form and sending it to the County Recorder of

the voter's county of residence.

### 2. Uniformed Services and Overseas Voters

Arizona residents in the military, their spouses, and eligible dependents *stationed outside the state* may register up until election day. Their registrations must be returned to the County Recorder's office of their county of residence by 7:00 p.m. on election day.

## Voter Registration Deadlines

Voters must register 29 days before election day to be eligible to vote in the election.

## Voter Information Changes

The following voters must fill out a new voter registration form and file it with their County Recorder before the registration deadline expires:

- A voter who moves within Arizona from one county to another county;
- A registered voter desiring to change political party;
- A registered voter whose name has changed, resulting either from a court order or marriage.

## Change of Address Within the County – New Residence Ballots

Voters who move from the address at which they are registered to another address *within the same county* and who do not notify the County Recorder of the change of address before the date of an election shall be permitted to vote at the polling place for the voter's new address. These voters will fill out a form to update their voter registration records at the new polling place.

These voters will be asked to present a form of identification that includes the voter's given name and surname and the voter's complete residence address, which must be located within the precinct where the voter is attempting to vote. For voters who live in a rural county, whose only form of identification shows a post office box or directions to their residence, an oral inquiry shall be made regarding their residence location to determine whether the voters are eligible to vote in the precinct where they attempting to vote. An election official shall confirm that the addresses of the voters are located within the precinct where they are attempting to vote. Each voter shall affirm in writing the new residence address and shall be permitted to vote a "New Residence Ballot."

# EARLY VOTING

Any registered voter may vote early in Arizona elections, either on-site or by mail. There is no need to show a justification for voting early, as there was under the old "absentee voting" system.

## On-Site Early Voting

Beginning 33 days before election day and up until 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday before the election, a voter may vote early

in person at the County Recorder's office or at on-site voting locations designated by the County Recorder. [A.R.S. § 16-542(D).]

The early voting date for the Presidential Preference Election begins 15 days before the date of the election and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. [A.R.S. § 16-246.]

## Early Voting by Mail

An elector may make an oral or signed request to the County Recorder for an official early ballot 93 days before an election. If the request is oral (in person or by telephone), the requesting elector shall provide the date of birth and state or country of birth or other information that, if compared to the voter registration information on file, will confirm the identity of the elector. Requests in writing should include name and address as registered, birth date, election for which ballot is requested, address where ballot is to be mailed, and signature of the requestor.

Early ballots will be counted if returned to the County Recorder or other officer in charge of elections by 7:00 p.m. on election day. County Recorders' offices will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on election day to accept early ballots. Early ballots may also be dropped off at *any* polling place in the voter's county of residence no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day.

## Emergency Voting

Emergency early voting is permitted if an unforeseen circumstance occurs that would prevent an elector from voting at the polling place. Voters should contact their County Recorder for the procedure for emergency early voting between 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday before the election and the Monday before election day.

## Requesting a Primary Election Early Ballot – Open Primary

Voters who are registered as independent, no party preference or with a non-recognized political party who wish to vote early in a Primary Election must identify one ballot of a recognized political party they wish to vote when requesting an early ballot. [A.R.S. § 16-542.] Voters who are registered

with a recognized political party will receive an early ballot for their political party.

## Uniformed Services and Overseas Voters

Any absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter, as defined in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-410; 42 U.S.C. 1973ff), may request an early ballot with a federal postcard application that contains both an early voter registration application and an early ballot application.

A request for an official early ballot from an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter, as defined in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-410; 42 U.S.C. 1973ff), is valid if it is received by the County Recorder or other officer in charge of elections anytime during the 90 days preceding the election.

## Open Primary System

Arizona's Open Primary Law allows voters registered as independent, no party preference, or members of a party without ballot recognition to vote in the partisan Primary of their choice of one of the recognized political parties. [Ariz. Const., art. VII, § 10.] Only names of candidates of "recognized" parties appear on a Presidential Preference or Primary Election ballot. Voters registered in these parties may vote only the Primary Election ballot for their political party. [A.R.S. § 16-467(B).]

Recognized parties are parties which have achieved Primary ballot status through the petition process pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 16-244, 16-801, 16-802, and 16-803 or by qualifying for continued representation on the Primary Election ballot through ballots cast or voter registration, as provided in A.R.S. § 16-804. Recognized parties for the 2000 Primary and General Elections are: Democratic, Green, Libertarian, Natural Law, Reform, and Republican.

# INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM MEASURES

## Article IV, Part 1, Arizona Constitution; Title 19, Arizona Revised Statutes

### Initiative

Arizona's registered voters may propose new laws, amend existing laws, or propose constitutional amendments through the initiative petition process. Before the petition is printed and signatures collected, an application for a petition serial number along with a 100-word description and the complete text of the measure must be filed with the Secretary of State on a prescribed form. [A.R.S. §§ 19-102 and 19-111.] Signatures obtained before the filing of the committee's statement of organization are void and shall not be counted in determining the legal sufficiency of the petition. [A.R.S. §§ 19-111(C) and 19-114(B).]

If the proponents file enough signatures on the initiative petitions, the measure will be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the people at the next General Election. Forms, sample petitions and Arizona Revised Statutes Title 19 (the laws that govern the initiative process) are available upon request from the Secretary of State's office.

### Referendum

Arizona's registered voters may circulate a petition to refer to the voters a measure or part of a measure passed by the legislature. An application for a referendum petition serial

number along with a 100-word description and a copy of the measure must be filed with the Secretary of State before the circulation of the petition. [A.R.S. §§ 19-101 and 19-111.] Signatures obtained prior to the filing of the committee's statement of organization are void and shall not be counted in determining the legal sufficiency of the petition. [A.R.S. §§ 19-111(C) and 19-114(B).]

If the proponents file enough signatures on the initiative petitions, the measure will be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the people at the next General Election. Forms, sample petitions, and Arizona Revised Statutes Title 19 (the laws that govern the referendum process) are available upon request from the Secretary of State's office.

### Ballot Measure Arguments

Any person or organization may file an argument advocating or opposing a measure referred to the ballot by initiative or referendum petition or by the legislature. The arguments for and against each measure will be included in the Publicity Pamphlet published and distributed by the Secretary of State before the statewide General Election. The deadline for filing arguments is 60 days before the Primary Election. [A.R.S. § 19-124.]

Each argument must:

- not exceed 300 words in length;
- be signed by the person or the officers of the organization supporting it;
- provide the residence or post office address and telephone number of each person signing the argument.

**Arguments For Or Against Ballot Measures**

Last day to file: 60 days before the Primary Election.

**Arguments For Or Against -- Deposit Amount**

Pursuant to A.A.C. R2-12-701 (effective March 3, 2000):

- Argument filed on paper only - \$100.00
- Argument filed on paper and electronic format (computer disk) - \$75.00



*The Xtreme Voting Guide, which explains the voting process to young voters is available in paper copy from the Secretary of State's Office or through the Internet at [www.sosaz.com](http://www.sosaz.com).*

The Election Canvass (pages 348 to 405) can be viewed by clicking the links below  
<http://www.sosaz.com/election/2000/info/ElectionInformation.htm>  
<http://www.sosaz.com/election/PreviousYears.htm>

